

Pharisees' Accusations and Desire a Sign Matthew 12:22-45; Mark 3:22-30

In his book, The Words and Works of Jesus Christ J. Dwight Pentecost said, concerning this event of Christ, “This incident, then, marked the great turning point in the life of Christ. From this point on to the _____, the nation is viewed in the Gospels as having rejected Christ as Messiah. The unofficial rejection by the leaders would become official when finalized at the _____.” p. 208

I. Setting

“Then was brought unto him one possessed with a _____, _____, and _____: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. ²³And all the people were _____, and said, Is not this the son of David? (Gk – _____)” Matthew 12:22-23

II. Religious Leaders' Accusation and Jesus' Answer

Accusation:

“But when the _____ heard it (“And the _____ which came down from Jerusalem” Mark 3:22), they said, (“He _____ Beelzebub,” Mark 3:22) This fellow doth not _____ out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.” Matthew 12:24

Pharisees/scribes –

“Beelzebub the prince of the devils.” –

- **Two-Fold Answer & Counter Charge:**

1. **Logically, Satan would not work against himself.**

And Jesus _____ their thoughts, (“And he _____ them unto him,” Mark 3:23) and said unto them, (“in _____, How can Satan cast out Satan?” Mark 3:23) Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation (“cannot stand.” Mark 3:24); and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: ²⁶And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? (“but hath an end.” Mark 3:26)” Matthew 12:25-26

“knew their thoughts”/“called them unto him” –

“parables” –

“cannot stand”/“shall not stand” –

“but hath an end” –

2. Inconsistency of their Logic

“And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. ²⁸ But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is _____ unto you. ²⁹ Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house. ³⁰ He that is not _____ me is against me; and he that gathereth not _____ me scattereth abroad.” Matthew 12:27-30

“by whom do your children cast them out? –

“then the kingdom of God is come unto you.” –

“he first bind the strong man?” –

“not with me is against me;”/“gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.” –

- Counter Charge – Blasphemy Against the Spirit

“Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men (“and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme” Mark 3:28): but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall _____ be forgiven unto men (“but is in danger of eternal damnation” Mark 3:29). ³² And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall _____ be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.” Matthew 12:31-32

“(“_____ they said, He hath an unclean spirit.” Mark 3:30) ³³Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. O generation of vipers (Lit. _____), how can ye, being _____, speak _____ things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. ³⁵A _____ man out of the _____ treasure of the heart bringeth forth _____ things: and an _____ man out of the _____ treasure bringeth forth _____ things. ³⁶But I say unto you, That every idle word (Lit. - _____) that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. ³⁷For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.” Matthew 12:33-37

III. Religious Leaders Ask for a Sign

“Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would _____ a sign from thee.” Matthew 12:38

“we would see a sign” –

- **Three-Fold Answer:**

“But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet _____: ⁴⁰For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the _____.” Matthew 12:39-40

1. **Your only sign**

“The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and, behold, a _____ than Jonah is here. ⁴²The queen of the

south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a _____ than Solomon is here.” Matthew 12:41-42

2. Your history lesson

“Jonah” –

“queen of the south” –

“When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. ⁴⁴Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. ⁴⁵Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is _____ than the first. Even so shall it be _____ unto this wicked generation.” Matthew 12:43-45

3. Your evil hearts

Believers Application:

1. We must be very aware of our spiritual condition before God. The Holy Spirit is the one who convicts of our need for salvation. We must not reject as He communicates with us our need to become a Christian.

John 16:7-11; Matthew 7:13-27

2. Who or what do you worship and serve? Is it God? Or is there something or someone else that you place above the God of heaven? Don't quickly dismiss these questions! The generation of Jews that knew Jesus, served, loved, and worshipped their religion. To place religion above God and His truth is a lie of the devil and a tendency of man!